

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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CAN A MAN BE

A Methodist Minister,
A Modernist,
And An Honest Man

AT THE SAME TIME?

1. Is the Virgin Birth Essential to Christ's Deity?
2. Does a Modernist Know Better Than the Inspired Writer About the Virgin Birth?
3. Is Any Man Honest and Worthy of Respect Who Takes a Solemn Ordination Vow to Support Fundamental Doctrines of the Bible But Does Not Mean His Vows and Deliberately Breaks Them?
4. Can an Intelligent Man Honestly Believe That the Bible Means Spiritually the Exact Opposite of What It Literally States?

By EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE

A Nebraska Methodist minister has written the editor denying that the virgin birth is essential to Christ's deity, denying that the New Testament Greek text is accurate and urging that we give less attention to such matters as the virgin birth of Christ and to the cardinal doctrines which he calls incidentals and preach more important things.

Here we give the editor's answer, quoting the principal points in the Methodist minister's letter and answering them briefly.

February 2, 1949

Dear Mr. M—:

I am glad to have your inquiries and comments and will answer

them the best I can, pleading your gracious forbearance.

1. Is the Virgin Birth Essential to Christ's Deity?

You say, "I would like to inquire where it is stated in the Bible that the 'virgin birth is essential to Christ's deity.'" That is distinctly stated in Luke 1:35:

"And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."

The word therefore shows that (Continued on Page 4)

JUDAS' GREAT SERMON

By EVANGELIST LOUIS W. ARNOLD

Lexington, Kentucky

"Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself. And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value; And gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me."—Matt. 27:3-10.

Judas Iscariot preached one of the most powerful evangelistic sermons ever delivered, yet it was not delivered in the usual sense of the word. It was rather dramatized. Are you surprised that I say Judas preached so great a sermon? You think of Simon Peter preaching a great sermon on the day of Pentecost when

three thousand souls were saved. Did Judas preach so great a sermon as that. He did not intentionally preach nor did the Devil intend that he preach a great sermon. This is one time that it seems the Devil outdid himself through one of his servants, for in these few verses we have the account of a mighty sermon that Judas preached by his actions in his last few hours upon earth. Here Judas eloquently declares that sin does not pay when he dashes down the pieces of silver, then goes out to hang himself. The terrible death he

died is an eloquent message of warning to all, crying that sin does not pay. See him swing upon the limb—see the rope break—watch his body plummet downward over a precipice—see him strike the ground so that his vital organs tear themselves loose and dash outward through the wall of his abdomen!

You say, "Preacher, that is a horrible picture. It is not very nice." Here I am only describing what actually happened; here I am giving the sermon lived by Judas in the last hours of his life.

This passage that we call to your attention presents the world's supreme example of a wasted opportunity, of wasted influence, and of a wasted eternity.

Judas the Supreme Example of Wasted Opportunity

I do not know of anything else in the Bible or in the realm of literature or in the scope of human experience that surpasses this as an example of wasted opportunity. Few indeed have had the opportunity that was afforded Judas. He was with Jesus. He heard Jesus preach. No one else ever preached as Jesus did. We speak today of great preachers, but none of us know how to (Continued on Page 3)

49,000 Copies of
THE SWORD OF THE LORD
Printed This Issue

What Is a CHRISTIAN?

By EVANGELIST JOHN LINTON

Wheaton, Illinois

This question is being asked sincerely by some people who desire to know because they intend to become Christians and would know what is involved in that step. It is asked on the other hand scoffingly by men who do not believe there is any essential difference between one who is a Christian and one who is not, other than that the Christian holds

some strange beliefs received from an old-fashioned Book two or three thousand years old but now discredited as a divine revelation by certain of the intelligentsia of earth.

It does not follow, however, that this old-fashioned Book is without integrity and that the unbelief of some disproves its divine authority. Far from it! For others of earth's wisest men have believed the Bible to be a revelation from God. Scientists and scholars, kings and presidents, philosophers and statesmen, poets and authors throughout the centuries and to this day have accepted the Bible as a revelation from God of purest truth and, humbly before God and proudly before men, have acclaimed themselves Christians.

What a Christian is, what he has, and what he everlastingly will be, is not understood by the world, nor even by every Christian. When God in Christ was here among men His divine glory was veiled in a garment of flesh so that men did not know that God was in their midst. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' and, 'Is not this the carpenter?' Some, it is true, pierced through the disguise and (Continued on Page 2)



Rev. Louis Arnold

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HE HELD OUT HIS HAND

By REV. S. H. BAXTER, M.A., Pastor
Donaghadee Methodist Church, North Ireland

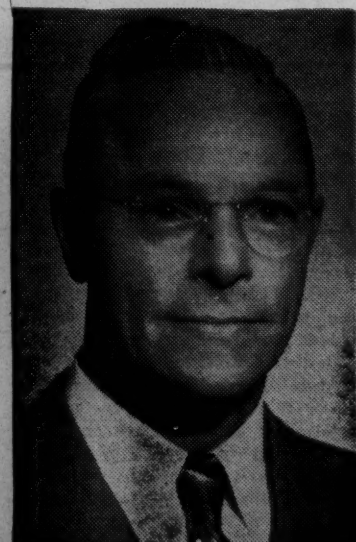
"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."—Matt. 11:28-30.

In her choice biography, D. E. Hoste, A Prince of God, Phyllis Thompson tells a lovely story of that great man who was called to be Hudson Taylor's successor in the Directorate of the China Inland Mission. Mr. Hoste was accustomed to pray aloud and sometimes to pray while walking up and down his garden path. One day he was doing so in the garden of the Mission Headquarters at Shanghai. The request had been made that he should not be disturbed, but with that simplicity characteristic of childhood, a little girl ran across to him and taking the proffered hand walked up and down with him as he prayed. By and by she heard

her own name mentioned in his prayers and then she ran off home. She soon told her mother that Mr. Hoste had prayed for her. When she was reproved for (Continued on Page 7)



Rev. S. H. Baxter



Rev. John Linton

What Is a Christian?

(Continued from Page 1)

beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father; but to the majority of men the glory was veiled.

It is so with the Christian. "It doth not yet appear what we shall be." As Christ had his hour of humiliation, so have we. And so real is this humiliation because of the weakness of the flesh and because we live in a world of temptation and sin, the glory of the Christian life is hidden both from the world and from the Christian himself.

In this message I want to uncover some of the glory and gladness, some of the marvel and miracle of what it means to be a Christian. As I speak, may the Holy Spirit grant every unsaved hearer the strongest kind of desire to become a Christian, and every Christian a holy determination to be a better Christian because of this message.

I give you a fivefold paradox describing the Christian life. It is strange but true. A Christian is one who believes the unbelievable, does the impossible, knows the unknowable, attains the unattainable, and sees the invisible.

I. A Christian Is One Who Believes the Unbelievable

Over and over again the Bible declares that men become Christians by believing. Believing what? Believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. But what does it mean to believe in Christ? Simply what it means to believe in anyone else. If we believe in a person, we accept as truth what that person says. To believe in Christ means that we believe as true what Jesus Christ says concerning Himself, concerning His virgin birth, His eternal existence as Son of God and God the Son, His death for sinners, and that atoning death as the only way of salvation.

Now to an unregenerate man such things are unbelievable. Take Christ's virgin birth. That Christ was born of a woman, without a human father, is contrary to all known laws and all human experience. Humanly speaking, it is impossible, and because impossible, therefore unbelievable. It is so unbelievable that some professing Christians, called modernists—and mark that I call them only professing Christians—deny the virgin birth of Christ in order, as they think, to make Christianity more believable to unbelieving men!

As for Christ's deity—is it credible that God Almighty could be incarnate and imprisoned in the body of that helpless little baby lying on a woman's breast? Is

that tiny hand the hand that created all worlds and holds sun, moon, and stars in their orbits? Impossible! Incredible!

And, this above all, His death. That yonder one of three criminals, hanging on a dreadful cross, His face covered with spit, the blood from His lacerated brow congealed upon His cheeks, His bare back torn by the Roman lash, and about to draw His last breath—is God? Are you telling me that God Almighty would stand helpless and silent while foul-mouthed men spat their liquid venom in His face? Yet this incredible story of a crucified God is a fact of Bible history, and belief in that fact is the only foundation of man's salvation.

Do you wonder, then, that men find the story unbelievable? Paul says, "The preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness" (I Cor. 1:18). Certainly it is. Such facts are entirely outside the range of man's thinking and are so opposed to what man thinks of himself as to be unbelievable.

But—and here is where the miracle of Christian life begins—there are millions of men and women who believe and know that these things are true. For the same God who designed, and then brought to pass these unbelievable facts, also Himself creates the faith to believe them.

For faith in the spiritual things is not a human capacity; it is a divine gift. It is not worked up; it is sent down. It is not inherent in us; it is imparted to us. The kind of faith that brings salvation is, like salvation itself, a gift from God.

Faith, my friend, does not come by setting our will, gritting our teeth, clenching our fists, and saying, "I am going to believe God." That is not faith but flesh. Men are helpless to believe for salvation unless and until God's Spirit imparts faith to believe. But when a man seems himself to be lost and when, convicted by the Holy Spirit of his need of a Saviour, he sincerely desires and wills to be saved, then it is that God imparts to that man a childlike faith to believe what God has revealed in His Word concerning salvation. Thus the very faith that saves us is a gift from God.

Oh, I am glad to know that the faith that saved me is a divine gift! Herein I see the wisdom of God. There is no room in God's plan of salvation for human boasting. There will be no strutting around the streets of Heaven proudly boasting that our faith brought us there. It was pride that cast Satan out of Heaven, and we might fall into the same condemnation. Salvation is of the Lord—all of it. Apart from the faith which God inspires, man could not believe. Given such faith, he believes what to the natural man is unbelievable.

II. A Christian Is One Who Does the Impossible

Christianity is supernatural; it moves in the realm of miracle; it enables men to do what cannot be done. A certain engineering firm advertised in these words,

Got any rivers you think are uncrossable?

Got any mountains you can't tunnel through?

We specialize in the wholly impossible.

We do the things that no one can do.

It is overstatement, of course, but it is literally true of the Christian, for all things are possible to him that believeth, and a Christian does many things no one else can do.

For instance, when you were born as a little babe was it because you decided to be born or did others decide that for you? Everyone reading this message had a father. Did you choose your own father? No. You may have chosen your father-in-law, but not your father. That is impossible. You are also a member of some family. Now did you decide into what family you would be born? Impossible. You did not and could not decide your birth; you did not and could not choose your father; you did not

DR. BOB JONES SAYS:

"Standard Sixteen of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools says: 'If adequate information were obtainable in regard to the attitudes and achievements of those who have attended an institution, it would serve as a sufficient single standard for accrediting.' This really boiled down simply means that if an institution delivers the goods, it has the goods to deliver. Bob Jones University, of which I happen to be the founder and my son the president, has delivered the goods. We are able to contact every alumnus of our institution. We are also able to contact the overwhelming majority of all the students, whether they graduated or not, who have ever attended our school. More than thirty-four percent of our Bob Jones University graduates have been admitted to leading graduate schools in all sections of the United States, in Canada, and in the British Isles. All of these graduates, according to the records we have with just two exceptions, made good records in the graduate schools in which they were enrolled. Our graduates and former students are scattered almost around the world. Most of them are Christian leaders and are real soul winners. Multiplied thousands have been brought to the Lord Jesus Christ through the students who took their training in Bob Jones University. A good percentage of these young people could never have attended our school if they had not been able to get financial help. Every year we have to help financially some very worthy young people. That is the reason we are endeavoring to raise a Student Loan Endowment Fund so no student will ever have to be turned away from Bob Jones

University because he has not sufficient funds to pay his way.

We appreciate the cooperation you Christian friends have been giving us in recent months, but we are asking all of you to do your dead-level best to help us raise this one million dollars as a Student Loan Endowment Fund. If we can get this amount, we will solve the problem of the financial needs of prospective students who can be trained for Christian leadership and at the same time we will solve the problem of the operating overhead of Bob Jones University. We have demonstrated for a number of years that if we can collect from the students the cost for their room, board, and tuition, we can pay our operating overhead. If we can get the million-dollar Student Loan Endowment Fund, we can make loans to students who need help and make the loans on a basis that will make it possible for the students to come to school and pay their way. Then the school can pay its operating expenses, and when the students get out into the world, they can, without any great financial strain, pay what they may owe the school and the school in turn will use the money to help some other students.

We thank you friends who have already helped us, and we hope you will help us some more. You who have not made any investment of the Lord's money in this Student Loan Endowment Fund, please make an investment now. We will need to help a good many students this coming school year. Thank you and God bless you."

Sincerely yours,

BOB JONES, FOUNDER

BOB JONES UNIVERSITY
GREENVILLE, S. C.

and could not select your family. Well, a Christian does all three of those impossible things!

He decides his own birth! There are two births possible to a man: a natural and a spiritual birth. When we receive Christ as Saviour we are spiritually born. And except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. Over the first birth we have no control, but we do decide the second. We are born of God, born from above when we say yes to Jesus Christ. God has given the sons of men the power to say yes, and whosoever will may come. Thus you can actually determine the birthday of your soul by turning to Christ today. Every Christian blesses the day when he decided to be born.

He chooses also his own father! No man born of a woman ever did that. It is impossible. Yet every Christian has done it. The Christian has two fathers: his first father according to the flesh, and now His heavenly Father through faith in Christ.

It is a unique privilege to be able to choose your father. Some children are blessed with good fathers, and some cursed with bad ones. If a father is homely in his looks and children, especially the girls, are not too satisfied with the family likeness. But the Christian who decides to take God as his Father will have no such complaint. He knows he shall one day have a new resurrection body bearing the glorious image of Christ and that we shall be satisfied when we awake in His likeness.

But, preacher, are not all men children of God? I answer respectfully, but emphatically, no! Jesus said so. He should know. Men tell you God is the spiritual Father of all men, but if they are right, the Bible is wrong; if they speak the truth, Christ speaks falsehood. Jesus said of some, "Ye are of your father the devil" (John 8:44). How, then, can all men be the sons of God? Paul said, "They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God" (Rom. 9:8). God is the maker, the creator of all men, but only the spiritual Father of those who have received Christ into their heart and life. "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God" (John 1:12). When you take Christ as Saviour you choose God as heavenly Father.

Moreover, the Christian selects

his own family. Who else ever did that? Whether a man is born a Scot or a Swede, black or white, Jew or Gentile, he had nothing whatever to do with it. If he could choose our family or nationality, it would be a different world. Every place would likely be cluttered up with Scotsmen and there would be nobody to envy us! All over America people came to me and say boastfully, "My grandfather was a Scot," or "My great grandmother was a Scot." Sure, but they didn't ask your advice about it, so why take the credit? Why so boastful when you had nothing to do with it?

A Christian, however, actually selects his own family. For there are two different families on earth and all men are in one or the other. Color, race, speech, name do not determine that family. One is called in the Bible "the children of the flesh," "the children of the world," "the children of disobedience," "the children of wrath." The other family is called "the children of light," "the children of the kingdom," "the children of the Highest," "the children of God."

Now we are in the first family by nature, but we enter the second family by choice. "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God." We actually have the power of choice that brings us into the family of God. Every Christian has so chosen. He selected the family of God as the family to which he wished to belong for time and eternity. You cannot enter this family unless you are a Christian. That is impossible. The Christian, when he believed, decided his birth, chose his Father, and selected his family. All three things are possible only to him that believeth. Thus a Christian is one who has done the impossible.

III. Moreover, a Christian Is One Who Knows the Unknowable

There are certain things within the bounds of man's knowledge, and there are other things man cannot know apart from the revelation of God. Man's knowledge deals with things visible and material. Things unseen and intangible are beyond his ken. The things of Heaven and Hell, of God and Christ, of eternity, of the day of judgment, of the soul of man—these are some of the things that lie outside the knowl-

edge of man. He knows them not and cannot know them unless God both gives a man a revelation and then anoints his eyes to comprehend the truth revealed.

For it is a striking fact that men cannot comprehend by their own wisdom the truth of God even in an open Bible. Look at the nation of Israel as a remarkable example of this. Here is a people cradled in religion, skilled in all the arts and sciences, steeped in the literature of the Old Testament. These Hebrew Scriptures from beginning to end are crammed full of Jesus Christ; yet to His identity and to the meaning of their own Scriptures they are blind, stone blind. The Bible plainly declared that spiritual truth would be hidden from the natural man: "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Cor. 2:14). Apart from the illumination of God's Spirit, the things of God are unknowable.

Chaplain Edwin Orr tells of dealing with an officer in the United States Air Force who told him he was an atheist and did not believe there was a God. Chaplain Orr asked him, "Do you believe your knowledge of all things is so perfect, so complete, and so universal, that nothing could exist outside the realm of things that you know?" Orr reminded him that an intellectual giant like Einstein had said that what he and others knew was only a fragment of what was still to be known. The atheist admitted there were some things that could exist and doubtless did exist outside the realm of his personal knowledge. The chaplain said, "May not God be one of those facts existing outside the bounds of your knowledge and experience?" The man had to admit this was logical and possible. Edwin Orr then told him to call himself by his right name—not an atheist but an agnostic, one who does not know there is a God.

Now if there is a man like that reading this message, let me say that the knowledge of God can be known both in mind and heart, and is known by every Christian. What God hath hidden from the wise and prudent, He hath revealed unto babes. As Paul declared, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit" (I Cor. 2:9, 10). Think of that! A revelation from God, given to believing man, making man wiser than the world's wisest men, and revealing to him things which to the wisest of men are unknowable.

Yes, men and women can know God if they want to, but only in God's way. An agnostic, one who does not know God, can know if he will. Millions of others, some of them the greatest intellects the world has known, have come to know God for themselves, including many atheists and agnostics. If you are one who does not know God, let me ask you—do you want to know Him? If so, He will reveal Himself to you if you come to Him in the way He has set forth in Scripture. "If any man will to do his will, he shall know of the doctrine..." (John 7:17). And if you do not know Him, it is simply because you do not want to know Him; that is, you are an unbeliever, and for that God will judge you."

IV. Then, Too, a Christian Is One Who Attains the Unattainable

What is the highest position in all the universe for majesty, for nobility, for privilege, that could be given to a man? Certainly the greatest Being in the universe is God. That highest place, therefore, would be for a man to be enabled to stand in the presence of God accepted and acceptable in the relationship, not of a servant, but of a son, with all the privileges that the relationship of Father and son involve. Now God is so transcendently above man in His infinite holiness—as in all the other attributes of His deity—that such a statement

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Judas' Great Sermon

(Continued from Page 1)

preach. No man ever spake as Jesus did. Yet, after hearing the world's greatest preacher, Judas wasted his opportunity and died a terrible death of suicide.

Judas not only heard the world's greatest preacher but he heard the world's most matchless Teacher. Jesus is recognized universally as the greatest Teacher who ever lived. Judas sat under His teaching. He, along with the other disciples, was with Him for more than three years; yet Judas' life was wasted and ended in ignoble failure. As if that had not been enough, Judas was with Jesus and heard Him pray as no one else ever prayed. Judas heard God speak from Heaven saying, "This is my beloved son." Judas saw the great miracles that Jesus performed—the feeding of the multitude, the healing of the sick, the opening of blinded eyes, the cleansing of lepers, the unstopping of deaf ears, the stilling of the tempest, and the raising of the dead; yet Judas died without Christ.

It is clear to me that Judas was never saved. Jesus said in His great high priestly prayer, "None of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled" (John 17:12). Again He said, "Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?" (John 6:70). Again the Scripture says concerning Judas, "Judas, by transgression fell that he might go to his own place" (Acts 1:25). "Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot . . . Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given for the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief" (John 12:4-6). Certainly this is evidence enough that Judas was not a Christian for one cannot be the son of the Devil, one cannot be called a devil and be a Christian at the same time. So we find in Judas the supreme example of wasted opportunity.

The Bible teaches that men will be judged not only according to their sins but also according to their opportunity. When Jesus was on earth preaching He looked at the cities round about Him, called them by name and pronounced woes upon them.

"Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! . . . And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the

mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee." —Matt. 11:20-24.

Here Jesus declares it will be more tolerable for Sodom in the day of judgment than for the cities where He had preached. Was that because the cities where He preached were more vile? Certainly not. There was never a city more vile than Sodom. To this day the very name of Sodom remains a by-word. If there are those who are so vile that there is no word in the language to describe their villainy, we speak of them as Sodomites. Here was practiced the lowest and vilest of sins ever known to man. Here was a city so seething in its corruption that the only thing to do was to cut it out like a cancerous sore and cast it away from civilization forever. Yet, Jesus declares that Sodom will have an easier time in the judgment than the cities where He preached. The reason? They had more light. They sinned against more opportunity. Theirs was a greater waste of opportunity.

So it is with men today. Those who have the greatest opportunity and sin against it will have the most difficult time in the judgment. Certainly all men without Christ are lost, but all will be rewarded in Hell according to their works, just as all are rewarded in Heaven according to their works. In Heaven we will receive good rewards according to our works, but in Hell those who have died without Christ will receive evil rewards according to their works. And the more light a man has rejected and sinned against, the greater his punishment will be.

In this connection, think of what will happen to those who go to Hell from America. This is the land of opportunity; this is the land of open Bibles. There is a Bible in almost every home. Anyone can purchase a Bible for less than a dollar, and if you have not the dollar there are plenty of organizations willing to give a Bible free of charge to those who cannot afford one. This is the land of opportunity. Our cities are filled with churches—along the crowded thoroughfares, along the boulevard and down the quiet avenues there are the churches with their bells ringing out, with their chimes sounding across the still morning air, with their

preachers proclaiming the message in the pulpit. Then out in the country there are the country churches scattered hither and yon along the highway, reminding one that there are still those who believe in God.

This is the land of gospel preaching. Not only is the gospel preached in pulpits Sunday after Sunday, but revivals are held. In all the cities and in most of the communities of this land there is never a year that passes without a revival. Yet, that is not all. God has so favored this land that the gospel is proclaimed from the radio stations all up and down the land. There is perhaps not a square inch of territory where the gospel cannot be heard at some time or another by radio, and in most all of the country the gospel can be heard at least once every day. God has called some of His greatest preachers to go up and down this land heralding the tidings; yet there are many without Christ. It is appalling the number of people who never go to church. May God have mercy upon them! What will happen to those who go to Hell from such a land as this?

I say to you, my friends, at the judgment it will be easier for the man yonder in the jungles of Africa who never heard the name of Jesus, than it will be for the man who has gone from this land of opportunity. It will be easier for an Indian from the jungles of South America or for an Eskimo from the far frigid reaches of the north who never heard the name of Jesus than it will be for the man, the woman, the child in so-called Christian America where they have had so many opportunities and yet die and go out without Jesus.

In so-called heathen lands where the gospel has not been preached they are ripe, ready, anxious to receive our Christ. Great revivals are sweeping over many of the mission territories of the earth. Hundreds are being saved. And while they are receiving Christ so readily there are many like Judas who sin away great opportunity. There are many who have such blessings from God and yet go out without Christ. May God have mercy! May God grant that you will not become another Judas presenting a magnificent example of wasted opportunity.

Judas, the World's Greatest Example of Wasted Influence

Not only was Judas the supreme example of wasted opportunity, but he presents to us the world's greatest example of wasted influence. Judas could have been another Simon Peter. He could have been a mighty evangelist telling the story and winning thousands to the Lord. Think of it, my friends! Judas Iscariot could have written one of the books of our New Testament. We could have had the Gospel According to Judas Iscariot. He could have written some of the Epistles. Perhaps he could have written another book equal to the Revelation given to John the Beloved on the Isle of Patmos; yet the only thing that Judas left behind was this great example of wasted influence.

His life lifted none, but degraded all. His lying kiss, like the serpent's sting, sent its poison through the veins of our Saviour, breaking His great heart. The only memorial he left was a field of blood purchased with the thirty pieces of silver with which he betrayed his Lord. The place that Judas should have filled was left empty, desolate. Another must be elected at the first business meeting of the church to take his place. He was a wasted influence.

Just so there are many today with wasted influence. Think of the dad with a little boy honoring him, loving him, idolizing him, almost worshipping him. What an opportunity that dad has to

fashion and mold that little life; yet many a dad is wasting his influence and bringing that boy up to follow in his footsteps—footsteps that lead along the path of sin upon the way to Hell.

Think of the mother rocking an innocent baby in her arms—a cooing sweet little baby with dimpled cheeks and golden hair, a baby so beautiful that it seems that God must have plucked the bloom from the fairest rose to tint the cheek, that God must have plucked a smile from the sunrise of a spring morning, that God must have used the fleecy down of a cloud for its baby hair and that God must have placed the heart of an angel in the little breast. Yet the mother who rocks that innocent little babe wastes her influence that could be used in bringing that one up to be a sweet and noble Christian. The mother without Christ brings her little one up to follow her footsteps along the path of sin upon the way to Hell. May God have mercy upon the parents who will waste their influence, not using it to bring their own children to Christ.

Many times this is not confined altogether to the ungodly. Many of those who are saved waste their influence and fail to bring their little ones to know Him. May God help us to use our influence, to buy up, to treasure up opportunities to bring those who are dear to us to know our Lord.

Think, my friend! Your influence is counting one way or the other. Either you are lifting people toward the gate of pearl or else you are dragging them down toward a Devil's Hell. I learned long ago that you cannot push others up ahead of you. If you would lift others, you must go up first yourself and then reach down to lift them to the level you have attained.

There was a time in my life when I was in sin and I was dragging everyone else who crossed my pathway down toward a Devil's Hell. I seemed to be the ringleader of the crowd, and it seemed that everyone who was associated with me was made worse by that association. It was like breathing a dreaded disease. I would give the world if I could go back and relive those years when I led others away from God. Some of them have gone into eternity unprepared. I would give the world if I could change those days. But, I thank God with all my heart and soul that for the last fifteen years I have been going in the other direction, and with all the strength of my personality, with all the vigor of my manhood, with all the passion of my heart, with all the talents that God has given me, with everything in my control I have been laboring to lift men from the pit of sin and start them on the way to Glory. And, praise God, these are hundreds now on their way to Glory who would not be going but for my poor ministry. There are many already settled in Heaven who perhaps would not be there but for my ministry. And

as I look toward the future, thank God that every day presents an opportunity, an opportunity not to waste my influence, but to use my influence for God.

Many of you could be such an influence, such a blessing, such a power but first you must come to Christ, you must let Him save you. Then you can let Him use you to save others.

Judas Wasted His Eternity

We come now to the final thought. Not only did Judas waste his opportunity, not only did Judas waste his influence, but he wasted his eternity. Think, my friends! Judas could have been one of the brightest saints in yonder world. Think of the scene that will one day take place in Heaven. Jesus will be seated upon a throne. Round about Him will be twelve thrones. Upon those thrones will sit the twelve apostles judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Judas could have occupied one of those thrones. Judas could have been one of the most honored of the saints in Glory, but he wasted his eternity. Instead of occupying a throne near the side of the Lord Jesus Christ Judas is condemned for all the ages that will ever come to wander in the regions of the damned.

I am sure that most of us would not want to visit that land if a visit were possible. But if a visit were possible and we should decide to go, I think we would find Judas tugging at something about his neck. We get closer to him to find him tugging at a rope. We say to him, "Judas, where did you get that rope?"

He answers, "Alas, I tied the knot in time, I cannot untie it in eternity. I cannot even burn it off in this land of fire. In this land of intense burning heat, I cannot burn it off. I am doomed forever and forever to wear this rope, to tug at it, to be tormented by it, to think of the wasted opportunity, to think of the wasted influence, to think of my wasted eternity." My friends, it is enough to make the very angels weep to think of the wasted life of Judas Iscariot.

Suppose we take another excursion. Instead of journeying to that terrible land of fire, of heat, of drought, of weeping, of wailing, of gnashing of teeth, of lost souls, of abandoned hope, of complete despair, let us journey to the land of light and love and laughter. Suppose we stand upon the streets of glory. It is our first day in the capitol city. We look around us, bewildered by the

(Continued on Page 6)

What Is a Christian?

(Continued from Page 2)

should be made only with reverential awe. That is how I so speak when I say that this highest height of relationship and exaltation, utterly unattainable by any man on earth, is actually attained by every Christian.

Now to stand before God acceptable because righteousness is not in the power of any unsaved man to accomplish. Without holiness shall no man see God. This holiness must be a perfect holiness. It must be a garment of purest white, unspotted by a single sin. The holiness God demands of man must be as perfect as His own holiness, else He Himself would cease to be holy, and Heaven would cease to be an altogether holy place.

Has any mere man ever attained such holiness? None. Has any man at all ever lived a life of unblemished righteousness? Only one—that was the man Christ Jesus. The sinless Son of God was the only perfectly righteous man.

Now see the wisdom and the wonder of the cross. There God not only takes my sin and places it on His sinless Son so that Christ makes expiation of my sin and guilt, but God also takes the perfectly righteous life of Christ and puts that to my credit, so that I am not only forgiven and cleansed, but I am made to stand before God clothed in the perfect

righteousness of Christ. So that

"Clothed in His righteousness alone
Faultless we stand before the throne."

Is this place of acceptance before God attainable by unbelieving man? Never. Is it open to the greatest sinner on earth who turns from sin in penitence to God? Bless God, it is! Oh, what a gospel to preach! Oh, what a grace to extol! Oh, what a Saviour to exalt! "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (II Cor. 5:21).

The righteousness of God! Think of it! Sinful men actually attain the place of perfect righteousness because they have imputed to them the spotless perfection of God's sinless Son. That is why we sing,

Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress;
'Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
With joy shall I lift up my head.

How we ought to be thrilled with the wonder and the glory of it! Accepted before God! Standing before infinite holiness, unafraid, unabashed, because without spot or blemish, and able to bear the pure white light of the throne

(Continued on Page 8)

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Can a Man Be a Methodist Minister,--

(Continued from Page 1)

the reason the Lord Jesus "shall be called the Son of God" is because of His miraculous conception and birth. It also clearly shows that the term Son of God as used here could not be used of one born in the ordinary fashion.

2. Does a Modernist Know Better Than the Inspired Writer About the Virgin Birth?

It is quite certain, as you frankly admit, that the Greek word *parthenos* means "a maiden or a virgin," maiden and virgin being synonymous. You say that the virgin birth "is clearly stated in the Bible." So it is, and so historical Christianity has always held and holds now. Then you say, "In Matthew 1:23 *parthenos* is an inaccurate translation (due to LXX) of a Hebrew word in Isaiah

7:14 meaning a female adolescent, a young woman of marriageable age, whether married or not, rightly translated by Theodotion and Aquila *neanis*." To my mind this seems a strange and fantastic statement. It seems to me that if you should base such a statement on the evidence and authorities concerning the Greek text, you must admit your case is hopeless, because the scholars are against you, as are the manuscripts. If this be your position, would you mind naming the Greek manuscripts of the New Testament which use *neanis* instead of *parthenos* in Matthew 1:23? Surely you cannot seriously attack the Greek text on such grounds.

But perhaps you mean that although the Greek text certainly says *parthenos*, the writer Matthew was not inspired and himself foolishly misunderstood the

Old Testament statement, and that the original text of the New Testament is in error. If such is your position—as it seems to be—then on what grounds do you take it? How do you know more than the divinely-inspired writer would know? For such an opinion, it seems to me that you would have no basis, but a preference to believe that the Bible was not true. Perhaps you have some scholarly basis for an opinion. In that case, will you tell me what it is?

I have carefully looked up every case in the Old Testament where the Hebrew word *almah* is used, a total of seven times, and in every case the translation virgin seems thoroughly justified. Young's Analytical Concordance gives the meaning of the word as "concealment, unmarried female." Those seven uses of the word *almah* do not justify you accusing Matthew of error. What other sources of Hebrew literature did you use to come to your conclusion besides the Old Testament Scriptures?

And if, as you say, the virgin birth "is clearly stated in the

Bible," why should any preacher of the gospel try to argue either that it is untrue or that it is unimportant?

3. Is Any Man Honest and Worthy of Respect Who Takes a Solemn Ordination Vow to Support Fundamental Doctrines of the Bible But Does Not Mean His Vows and Deliberately Breaks Them?

Now a much more important matter; the sincerity or hypocrisy of preachers who deny the virgin birth. Suppose we acknowledge that some men may honestly not believe in the virgin birth of Christ. I think there are many such people who have a genuine conviction that Christ was not virgin-born. I think they did not get that by honest scholarship and investigation of the facts, but I certainly agree that some men frankly do not believe in the virgin birth. It naturally follows that such men do not believe in the unique deity of Jesus Christ. And the franker of them say so. Fosdick has said so re-

peatedly, in print as in his sermon, "The Peril of Worshipping Jesus," in the book, *The Hope of the World*. Bishop McConnell has said so, and Bishop Oxnham has said so. They do not believe in salvation by the atoning blood of Jesus Christ and say so. They do not believe that Jesus was what He said He was, and therefore do not believe that Jesus is infallible nor sinless. Now suppose that such men have such convictions—can such a man honestly take the ordination vows of the Methodist ministry, to support the Articles of Religion of the Methodist church?

You are a Methodist minister; you know more about Articles of Religion of your church than I do, and the vows you took. If I am wrong, I want you to set me right. Do your Articles of Religion declare for the virgin birth of Christ, the absolute inspiration and authority of the Scriptures, or not? Did you take a vow to uphold those Articles of Religion? Did you mean it when you took that vow? Have you kept the vow?

I regard the ordination vow as being certainly as binding as an official oath in court. I regard it as a sacred word of honor. To me it seems that to make such a vow with secret evasion or mental reservation is worse than perjury. To me it seems that to knowingly take such a vow insincerely would be as dishonest as signing a note one did not intend to pay, or taking a public oath of allegiance to a country when one meant to be a traitor, or swearing to a fact in court when one knew it not a fact.

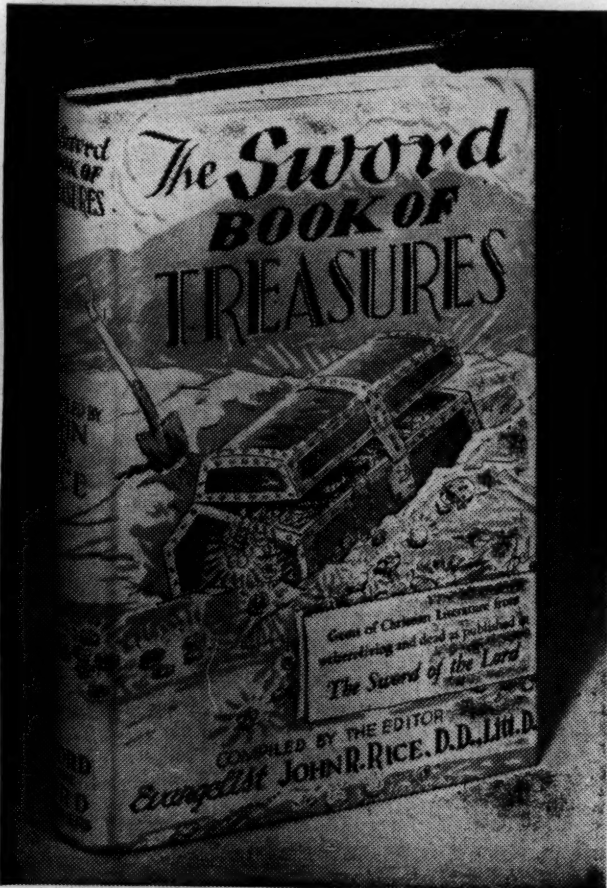
I shall be grateful if you will explain the moral convictions of any man who can take such a solemn oath before God and then willingly violate it, frankly intend to violate it when he makes it.

You see, I took a solemn vow, too. I count it as binding as my marriage vow, as binding as my vow of allegiance to the country when I was in the army, as binding as any other human obligation a man could ever voluntarily assume. I could not regard myself as being a man of honor and integrity if I should violate that vow knowingly and remain in the ministry. I can understand how a man can deny the Bible, deny the deity of Christ, deny the blood atonement. Bob Ingersoll did and Tom Paine did. But how a man can do that and stay in the church whose integrity he solemnly vowed before God to protect, stay in and break down the faith he promised to uphold, stay in and have his bread and meat and honors from common Christians who believe in Christ and the Bible and depend upon his vow to uphold what they believe—that is beyond my comprehension as an honest man. I cannot think it honest nor sincere. As a brotherly man who wants to do right and wants to know the truth, I ask you to write me whether or not you took your vows with secret evasion or mental reservation.

I could not call a man who is
(Continued on Page 6)

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| III. God's Abounding Love—T. Myron Webb. | XIV. How I Know There Is a God—R. A. Torrey. |
| IV. Our Solitary Saviour—R. L. Moyer. | XV. A Thrilling Christmas Time on the Frontier—A Pastor's Wife. |
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By the Editor

August 7-14 will long stand out in memory as a time of gracious blessing from Heaven poured out upon Christian workers from many states gathered at the Baptist State Assembly Ground, Siloam Springs, Arkansas, in The Sword of the Lord Conference on Revival and Soul Winning. Dr. Bob Jones said that it is the best conference on revival he had been in of all those conducted at Winona Lake, Chicago, Los Angeles, Toronto, Lake Louise, Siloam Springs, by THE SWORD OF THE LORD and leading evangelists. Brother Bill and I agreed that there was a freshness, an eagerness, a richness of blessing in this conference that in many respects were beyond anything we had seen in such conferences on revival and soul winning. It becomes evident that there is a mounting interest and confidence in the work done by THE SWORD OF THE LORD, a more widespread concern for revival as the days go on.

Those who attended the conference were principally Christian workers and their families. In one service, as I remember, Bill counted seventy-five preachers. I suppose that twice that many separate preachers were in the conference first and last. They came from far down in south Texas, from New Mexico, from Iowa, from northern Illinois, from Winston-Salem and Concord, North Carolina, and many other far-away places. They came with eager expectancy. One pastor and his wife came four hundred miles on a motorcycle. When they arrived, the wife, behind her husband, had her face deeply sunburned; they had driven through three rainstorms and their clothes were damp. Nevertheless, they hurried into the service not to miss a message!

A Texas pastor was present who

told how a year ago he drove across the southern states to Lake Louise, Toccoa, Georgia, for such a conference, how he was set on fire for soul winning. As I recall, he and his wife won two people to Christ on the road home and started a revival in their church on their return. He said, "That conference transformed my ministry." He was back for more this year at Siloam Springs.

The early morning prayer meeting was a rich feature of the conference. At 6:45 each morning the big bell began to ring. At 7:00 o'clock a fine group assembled for prayer. How earnest were the prayers! More and more requests for prayer tended to boil down to two things: people asked prayer for certain lost loved ones, that they might be saved, or asked that they themselves might be filled with the Spirit to do the work God had assigned to them. Several choruses about the Holy Spirit were sung with deep feeling and earnest prayer in service after service.

On Thursday night we had a blessed night of prayer. We continued only until one o'clock, but there was a great unity of heart and many felt their burdens lifted and their prayers answered.

The Remarkable Program

It was the plan to have services from 9:00 a. m. until 12:00 noon or a little past, then again at 6:45 and 8:00 p. m. with five speakers daily, besides the prayer meetings. That left the afternoon for recreation, rest, and personal work. Actually, most days there was a good street service in the park at Siloam Springs, and great crowds attended that street service.

Dr. Bob Jones was really a thrilling speaker. I do not remember that I ever heard him

speak when he seemed to be so bubbling over with joy and inspiration. He was tremendously moving and brought us from laughter to tears again and again. What a mighty preacher, what a faithful, godly Christian, what a loyal friend! He sowed for eternity when he preached into the upturned faces of these preachers and Christian workers from far and near.

Dr. D. A. McCall made a blessed contribution to the conference. He got into the life of the camp, he enjoyed the meals, he played baseball with young people (he once played professional baseball), and he was always the center of a happy group. But, best of all, his preaching grew warmer and warmer. All of his messages were positive, convincing, arousing, and two of them, in my judgment, were really tremendous, even terrible, in their preaching on the results of sin. They were recorded and you will read them, doubtless, in THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Dr. McCall feels deeply burdened about these conferences on evangelism and no doubt will help us again.

Evangelist James V. Lamb brought only three messages but they were of high calibre. I felt that one of them was probably as good as any message I have heard by the very leading evangelists in our conferences. It was so Spiritual, so logical, so pungently expressed, so full of facts, with earnest application, that it will strengthen people everywhere for revival. It will be published in THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

Evangelist Bill Rice made his usual strong contribution. He helped carry the load continually by directing the program, helping raise the money, getting subscriptions, making people feel at home and carrying part of the administrative load of such a conference. His messages were heart-warming and were as popular as any that were given. I thank God for Brother Bill.

Remarkable Music

The music at this conference at the Baptist State Assembly Grounds, Siloam Springs, Arkansas, was I think, the best we ever had. Evangelist Elmer Piper of the Fuller Foundation directed the music I feel that his solos were as fine as anything I have ever heard. Dr. McCall remarked that the special music was of such high quality as that for which concert-goers pay thousands of dollars. The singing was so happy and enthusiastic under Brother Piper's leadership. Special music by Emil Aanderud on three kinds of horns; the duets with young Scotchie McCall's accordion; the solos, duets and trios by Kermit Finley of Golden City, Missouri, Miss Fairy Shappard, Jean Nutting, Jessie and Joanna Rice of Wheaton, Illinois, and Al Stavish of California, Mrs. Roy Newer of Hanover, Illinois, made the whole program spicy. It was not ordinary but extraordinary in its spiritual impact. In this case, music was the vehicle of the Spirit of God and of the gospel message.

Happy Incidents of the Program

Miss Fairy Shappard managed the waitresses and dishwashers—fifteen fine young men and women who worked for their meals and bed. Mrs. Walter Handford, Jr. was dietitian. Walter Handford did five weeks' work in the conference area building up interest. He carried on daily radio broadcasts two weeks preceding the conference. He bought the food and supervised many of the workers. The editor's secretary met every person who came in and was registrar of the conference, assisted by Mrs. Bill Rice. Evangelist James Stoutenborough was everywhere making guests comfortable, showing people to their cabins, supervising the ushers, helping at the business office. Mrs. Stoutenborough ran the Snack Shack with sweet winsomeness and happy energy. Mrs. Nutting was dining room hostess. The cook was called away by sickness for the first three days and Mrs. Rice, the editor's wife, supervised the cooking and did much to guarantee a fine meal. I never ate as fine meals at any

(Continued on page 7)

Dr. John L. Hill To Be Sword Book Club Judge

By the Editor

Dr. John L. Hill has just retired as Book Editor of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, a position he has filled well for twenty-seven years. Years before that he was Professor of History and Dean of Georgetown College.

Dr. Hill has a Master's Degree from Columbia University, has done graduate work at Harvard, at the University of Cincinnati, as well as Columbia. He has been awarded honorary doctorates by Georgetown College, Union University, and Hardin-Simmons University.

At the very heart of all the book publications and book editorial work of the Southern Baptist Convention, Dr. Hill has had a marked influence. He is a Bible-believing Christian, has a wideness of experience, and it is with great joy that we announce him as a judge of the Sword Book Club.

Other distinguished judges who select books for the Sword Book Club are Dr. V. Raymond Edman, President of Wheaton College; Dr. Bob Jones, Jr., President of Bob Jones University; Dr. Robert G. Lee, Pastor Bellevue Baptist Church at Memphis, Tennessee, President of Southern Baptist Convention; Dr. T. Roland Phillips, Pastor Arlington Presbyterian Church, Baltimore; Dr. Henry Hepburn, Pastor Emeritus of Buena Presbyterian Church, Chicago; Evangelist William H. Rice, and this editor. We doubt if any book club in the world has such a learned and stable and honorable group of Christian leaders to pass judgment on the books that are available and select those that we are to recommend each month.

Thank you, Dr. Hill, for your kindly acceptance and we shall lean heavily upon your counsel and be glad to have your reviews of the books which are available each month.

Are you, SWORD OF THE LORD reader, a member of the Sword Book Club? If not, you are missing an unusual blessing. You are missing some of the best books and this is a chance to save money.

A few words about the working of the Sword Book Club. It ought to encourage you to join.

First, to join the Sword Book Club you simply sign an agreement to take at least four books which are designated as monthly selections, in the course of a year. You need not take any book that you do not want. Each month the main selection is described in detail in the Book Club News, which is published on the back page of THE SWORD OF THE LORD once a month, sent to all members. One or two alternate

selections are also shown each month. Of some thirty or thirty-six books offered each year, you agree to take at least four.

The plan of the Book Club is this: every month in the Book Club News, which each member receives, a rejection slip is furnished. If you do not want the current monthly selection you simply send in that rejection slip and say so. If you want another book instead of the main selection, you send in this rejection slip and say so. If you want the monthly selection, you do nothing and it automatically comes to you. Every book you do not want you simply mail in the rejection slip. If you do not mail in the rejection slip, it is understood that you want the book and have agreed to pay for it within thirty days.

What profit is it to belong to the Sword Book Club? First of all there is a great saving in money. When you join the Sword Book Club by buying one book club selection and signing the agreement, you get one book free. When you buy your fourth monthly selection or alternate selection, you get another book free. Thereafter you get one free book for every four books bought. Isn't that a genuine saving?

Another advantage you get is that the books are selected by such eminent Christian leaders as the very best buy, the most valuable contribution to the average reader in the field of Christian literature, for the month. Not only are the books worthwhile; they are the very best available. Eminent and godly men read over many books and give their views, and select their first choices. In this book we count up the points and the book most favored by the judges is the monthly selection. We do not know anywhere else that you could have the books selected so carefully as those offered each month by the Sword Book Club.

Another advantage is that these books come to you automatically each month if you want them to come, or that you can send in the rejection slip when the Sword Book Club News comes. You do not have to wait "until you think about it."

Why not sign the application today which appears in connection with this article, and become a member of the Sword Book Club?

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Dr. John R. Rice, Director
SWORD BOOK CLUB
214 West Wesley Street
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NOTE: If you would prefer another book, send for a list of books from which you may buy your first selection.

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Can a Man Be a Methodist Minister,--

(Continued from Page 4)

"literally" a whoremonger "spiritually" true to his wife. I could not call a traitor to his country "spiritually true" if he were literally untrue. I am simply trying to state the case for honest Bible-believing Christians and for honest people everywhere who believe in keeping holy vows and oaths and promises.

You say, "My only suggestion is that you begin to deal with fundamentals, not incidentals. Preach the gospel. Tell men of the saving power of Christ. Tell them how He makes all things new." All right, friend; are not these the fundamentals I am talking about? What good is Christianity that makes a man a liar and perjurer in the pulpit? Are not

truth and integrity and honest dealing and keeping of holy vows part of the fundamentals you are talking about? How can people who believe in the saving power of Christ, that He makes men new, excuse insincere evasions, twisted terminologies and betrayals of sacred trusts?

You have raised a good question. It distresses and disturbs me. I shall be sincerely grateful if you will write me whether or not I am right, that Methodist ministers take a vow to support the Articles of Religion of the Methodist church, whether these Articles of Religion do not cover the virgin birth, the inspiration of the Bible, the deity of Christ and the blood atonement and how you can reconcile any man staying

in the Methodist ministry when he ceases to honor those vows. That is an honest question that ought to have an honest answer, and I believe you will write me on that matter.

4. Can an Intelligent Man Honestly Believe That the Bible Means Spiritually the Exact Opposite of What It Literally States?

You say the virgin birth is "clearly stated in the Bible. And if one is a literalist he is compelled to accept it, not as a cardinal doctrine, but as a historical event." I take it that you are an educated man. Therefore you ought not to use words lightly, and surely you would not willingly twist them. I was a college teacher, did graduate work in the University of Chicago, have been an editor for fifteen years, and over six and one-half million copies of my books and pamphlets have been distributed. I mention these things only to show that I have a keen conscience on the use of words. With that in mind, I ask you if the virgin birth is clearly stated in the Bible, then why would not any Bible-believer accept it, whether he be a "literalist" or not? If a good Christian who is a literalist believes that Mary was a virgin, then would a good Christian who believes the Bible but is not a literalist believe that Mary was a harlot? She clearly was not married when the Saviour was conceived. If the Bible says a thing is white and a literalist believes that, then would any good Christian say that it meant black? Suppose we put it this way; do the Articles of Religion of the Methodist church represent the literal viewpoint? Then if any man takes these vows, does he believe certain things and will uphold them, intending for people to understand him literally when he himself has mental reservation and secret evasion in his mind and does not take them literally?

Why should any honest man call Jesus the Son of God when he does not mean that He is the Son of God in a unique sense, the virgin-born, God-incarnate Christ which the Bible pictures? Why should any man who is honest call Jesus "our Lord and Saviour" when he does not believe that Christ saves any one by His atoning death on the cross and by supernatural regeneration? Such talk is "tongue in cheek" insincerity, hypocrisy, in my humble judgment.

I shall be deeply grateful for your reply.

I should like to send with my compliments my book, *Is Jesus*

God? if I may send it as a brotherly gesture which will not be misunderstood. It has gathered together in simple form much of the overwhelming evidence for the deity of Christ. You may be familiar with much of this material, but there might be something fresh in it, and at least my viewpoint would be made clearer. Will you accept it in the kindly spirit in which I send it? One Methodist pastor wrote me, telling how tremendously he was steadied and helped by it.

In the dear Saviour's name,
yours,
John R. Rice.

JRR/vw

Help Get Doubters the Proof of Christ's Deity

In the letter above I mentioned my book, *Is Jesus God?* This book has 207 pages. The regular price is \$2.00. August sale price, \$1.60. It is an attractive cloth-bound book and I believe it might be richly blessed of God to settle the doubts of young ministers, college and high school students. God has already blessed it in a good many such cases. It proves the resurrection of Christ. It proves His virgin birth. It shows how Old Testament prophecies prove the deity of Christ. It shows that what is wrong with the modernist. It answers the modernist's objections and tells what God's Word says about it.

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Judas' Great Sermon

(Continued from Page 3)

strange beauty of that fair land, bewildered by the glitter of the gold, by the beauty of the gates of pearl, by the shining jasper walls. We look about us. We see the crystal river flowing. We see the redeemed saints marching happily along the streets laughing, singing, rejoicing, cheerful. No one is in a dark mood, no one is sick, no one is in a bad humor. We see an angel standing on the street corner. "Angel," we ask, "will you show us around this land?"

The angel says, "Surely I will."

So we trip lightly along the golden street breathing celestial atmosphere, reveling in the youth that is ours, in the joy of the hour. The angel points out mansion after mansion. At last we turn to him and say, "Where is the mansion that belongs to Judas Iscariot? You have shown us the dwellingplace of Simon Peter, of John, of James and the others."

For an instant it seems the smile fades from the angel's face. Then without a word he leads us along. "There is no mansion here for Judas," he says at last.

Listen, my friends, if there is a lot in Heaven where Judas' mansion should have been built, if there is a great and beautiful corner lot on one of the most beautiful avenues in Heaven where the mansion of Judas was to be erected, there is nothing built on it now and they are using it for a

city dump. His eternity was wasted.

Now, in closing let me say that many of you, as you waste your opportunities, are wasting your eternity. If you receive Christ here, He will receive you up there. If you reject Him here, He will reject you up there. If you stand for Christ now, He will stand for you at the judgment. But if you turn Him down, then He will say to you, "Depart, I never knew you."

Do not waste your opportunity. Do not waste your influence. Do not waste your eternity. The tragedy is that many postpone the matter of deciding for Christ from day to day. You have good intentions, but you postpone decision, and at last it is too late. It may be too late for you much sooner than you expect. "When is it too late?" you ask. It is too late when death claims you. "When is it too late?" you ask. It will be too late when your heart is so hard and cold that no message stirs your emotions. "When is it too late?" you ask. It will be too late when you have turned down the last invitation that you will ever hear in this world, when God has ceased to deal with your soul, when the second coming of Jesus is in the past instead of the future and your feet take hold of the path that leads downward forever.

Let me plead with you, my friend, do not postpone this matter another instant but receive Christ as your Saviour now.

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Henry Grady Harlan, Mus. D.; Ph.D., Editor
Dean, School of Music
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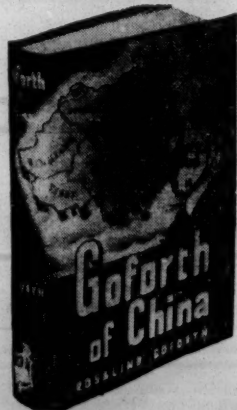
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He Held Out His Hand

(Continued from Page 1)

disturbing him, she replied, "But he held out his hand!" That was justification enough.

"He held out his hand." We can almost imagine that that was what Christ did here. We can see Him not only holding out one, but both hands as He utters this incomparable word to the tired men and women of His generation, and can we not see Him doing the same today to our worn-out and sin-sick world as with the same sympathy He cries: "But ye will not come unto me, that ye might have life." Let us look at these words of Jesus, uttered as "He held out His hand."

An Invitation

"Come unto me." Then to be a Christian is to have a personal relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ! Not, "Come to Church," as we so often hear today, with its emphasis on ritual and religious observances, but, "Come to know me as Saviour and Lord of life." In this invitation is bound up all the great evangelical message of the Gospel, for we cannot come to Christ until we have been born again of His Spirit and have had our sins washed in the blood of the Lamb. We cannot come to Him until we have been brought into saving relationship with Him through His atoning death on Calvary. Then having realized that He bore our sins in His own body on the tree and that "in my place condemned He stood" and having accepted what He has done on the cross for us rather than anything we can do for ourselves, we are brought into that place where we can have fellowship with Him. And what a fellowship awaits us? As the psalmist said, we find that He sets our feet in a large room.

A Partnership

"Take my yoke." They all knew what that yoke meant. Perhaps as Christ preached He could see a pair of oxen ploughing. They were "yoked," and a great deal of the success or failure of their work depended not only upon the man who was driving them but as to how they got on together in the yoke. But the folk Christ addressed knew what the yoke meant more by bitter experience than from seeing a yoke of oxen ploughing. He had just called them "weak and heavy laden" and it was their "yokes" that had made them like that. Many of them were yoked to the law. They were trying to carry out the thousand and one commandments that had been added to the pure words of God—the tradition of the elders. They were yoked to sin—that most grievous yoke of all. I Was Hitler's Prisoner was the title of a book published after the war. They were sin's prisoners and no concentration camp can compare to the horrors of sin's victims. They were yoked to Rome and the greedy unscrupulous tax-gatherers made sure that they did not escape from that yoke. Christ says, "Take MY yoke," for "my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

That is why Christ calls us — each one—to be yoked to Him. And His partnership is indeed light. Think of the yokes that bind men and women today, the habits and desires that they cannot break, held as in a vice, gripped by the desire for gambling, alcohol and evil living. This generation merits equally the description Christ gave of His own, "a wicked and adulterous generation." What a yoke, young man or woman, is the yoke of Christ compared to the yoke of sin! And the wonderful thing is that when you come into partnership with Him, these other yokes are broken.

"He breaks the power of cancelled sin;
He sets the prisoner free."

My heart was strangely warmed last night as I watched a young man lead the choruses at our Junior Christian Endeavor Society. I can never forget the night little over twelve months ago when I gave the invitation for those who wished to come to Christ and take His yoke, to

come forward to the Communion Rail, and he was one of those who came. Hopelessly under the influence of alcohol the night before he was converted, well set on the road that leadeth to destruction, Christ changed that boy that night. In the words of the familiar hymn,

"What a wonderful change in
His life has been wrought,
Since Jesus came into his
heart."

The new partnership is making all the difference to him and to others, for already the Lord is using him to lead other souls to Christ.

An Education

"Learn of me." When you accept the invitation and enter into the partnership, then you become a learner in the school of Christ. Conversion is the matriculation into the university of the Master. We pass from class to class but we do not graduate until we stand before the throne when earth and seas are fled. Then we hear the "well done, good and faithful servant," and what an education we have gained before then!

In the school of Christ! The Teacher! The Master Himself. "Learn of me." Some of us, as we look back on our school and university days, remember that the teacher made all the difference. There were subjects that seemed as dry as dust, but with that "born" teacher they simply lived. So it is with the Master. Some of the lessons we have to learn, the lessons from bitter experience, are very difficult, but, "I can do all things through Christ . . ." He makes all things plain.

In the school of Christ! The textbook! The Word of God that liveth and abideth for ever, and the Holy Spirit to guide us into all the truth. And when we are acquainted with the author, then, no matter what the critics say, we know the Book is true.

In the school of Christ! Our fellow scholars. Sometimes—like the schools down here below—our fellow scholars are not easy to get on with, but perhaps they find us

not easy to get on with, too, and we learn much from them. Not many of us can dare to say with Paul: "Those things which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and SEEN IN ME do," but we can say it about others. It was what we saw in our godly parents that first attracted many of us to Christ's school. And we are not ashamed to wear the old school tie, either. Proverbs 6:20, 21. "My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: Bind them continually upon thine heart, and TIE them about thy neck."

A Discovery

"Ye shall find." Oh, the thrill of the discoverer! The whole Christian world has been thrilled by the finding in a cave in Palestine a little over a year ago, of what is thought to be the oldest copy of any book of the Bible, the already famous Isaiah scroll. Every lover of the Word of God is eagerly waiting to see the fresh light that this discovery will throw on one of the richest books of the Bible. But the disciple of Christ has made the greatest discovery of all. He has found rest unto his soul. Moreover, he has found that the half has not been told of all that Christ can do in and through those who trust Him wholly.

"Ye shall find rest." "The wicked are like the troubled sea when it cannot rest." Was there ever a more restless age than that in which we live? Every known pleasure is tried to see if it will bring some fresh thrill. But they do not bring rest to the soul. Only Christ can give that. Have you found that rest? You and I are far apart, my friend. It is a long way from old Ireland to where you are as you read these lines, but if I am far from you there is One who is ever near to bless and cheer, for He is not far from any one of us. Will you come? Will you take? Will you begin to learn of Him and you, as the writer and millions of others both here and in eternity, will find not only rest, but peace, the peace that passeth all understanding which the world CANNOT give and which, bless God, it cannot take away.

"I came to Jesus as I was
Weary, and worn, and sad.
I found in Him a resting place.
And he has made me glad."

Stirring Times at Arkansas Baptist Assembly Grounds

(Continued from Page 5)

such conference and that was the testimony of pleased people all about. Jessie Ruth Rice recorded the speakers' messages for THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Mrs. Clyde Wantland took full charge of the booktable and did fine work without pay. Evangelist Kenneth Chapman, extension staff evangelist, was constantly at hand to help with the ushers, street meetings and other duties.

Souls Saved, Lives Rededicated

It is my firm conviction that there is no such thing as a genuine revival among Christians that does not lead them to win souls. A genuine revival in the hearts of the hundreds attending this conference gave them a burden to win souls. For three afternoons the workers conducted systematic house-to-house visitation in Siloam Springs, doing personal work, praying in the homes, leaving the booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" in every home. Then we had a remarkable series of street meetings with strong preaching, with superb music and good personal work. In one day there were twelve professions of faith; another day, five that I know of, and others were won on other days by the personal workers and in the street meetings. One of my daughters won four, as I recall, and a fine impact was made on the whole area.

This last word is dictated Sunday morning. Naturally most of our preachers have gone back to their own churches and pulpits for Sunday; yet last night (Saturday) there was a crowd of perhaps four hundred people who

drove in for the services. There was a deep moving of heart under the impact of Brother Bill's message. Two people, a mature man and his wife, laid themselves on the altar for full-time Christian service. There were other rededications and one ten-year-old girl claimed the Saviour.

It was a special joy to have others of my brothers and sisters—Evangelist Joe B. Rice, Mrs. Millard Martin of Paris, Texas, Mrs. David Thomas of Oklahoma City, with sisters-in-law, brother-in-law, and about a dozen nieces and nephews.

We had a good many special courtesies shown us by John Brown University at Siloam Springs, had the fullest cooperation from the Baptist State Assembly Ground. Dr. Williamson, director of Religious Education for the Baptists of Arkansas, was in a number of services and had the highest praise for the conference. We expect to hear many, many reports of blessings in the changed lives of those who attended this conference.

Be sure to pray for these Sword Conferences on Revival and Soul Winning and plan to attend next year!

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What Is a Christian?

(Continued from Page 3)

of God without being blinded and scorched to ashes! Yet this unattainable place have all the sons of God.

V. Finally, a Christian Is One Who Sees the Invisible

If you look at the sky through a powerful telescope you will see what the naked eye cannot see. You see things ordinarily invisible. The Bible is God's telescope. This revelation of God concerning things past and future extends the vision of a Christian so that things unseen become visible and real, things future and beyond the ken of man become part of his daily knowledge. He thus becomes a child of two worlds, and in the light of the world to come he walks the pathway of the present.

Moses had this extended vision and we are told that "he endured, as seeing him who is invisible" (Heb. 11:27).

Abraham "looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Heb. 11:10).

Paul said, "We look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (II Cor. 4:18). And in the light of eternal realities that would endure when this fleeting life was past, Paul lived, moved, and had his being while here on this earth.

The Christian sees the invisible mapped out on the pages of prophecy. He has in the Bible a blueprint of world events before they ever happen. Does this sound incredible. It is a sober, provable fact. Prophecy is simply history told beforehand.

Dr. Wilbur Smith, at a recent conference, read from six different books, most of them written almost one hundred years ago, and the forecast of world happenings was exactly what is headlining the newspapers of our day. The Christian knows the meaning of the tremendous world happenings today as an unbeliever cannot know them. He sees the issues involved in the present conflict with Russia and communism; he knows the cataclysmic events with which this age and the times of the Gentiles will end, and he sees in a divinely-given panorama the coming glory of the kingdom age. One-third of the Bible is devoted to prophecy, and the student of prophecy becomes a child of eternity with coming events filling his eyes.

The Christian's vision stretches not only out, but up. It embraces the Eternal City, and this is not a city of earth. Nothing that man builds is eternal. What man builds, time destroys. What God builds eternally remains. The Christian sees the Holy City, New Jerusalem, the invisible heavenly home of a noble army—men and boys, the matron and the maid who "died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country . . . wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city" (Heb. 11:13-16).

Mark that they saw this city afar off: they envisioned what others could not see; they beheld the world unseen; they saw the invisible.

There's a land that is fairer

than day,

And by faith we can see it

afar;

For the Father waits over the

way,

To prepare us a dwelling-

place there.

Oh, this is a small world and a sorrowful world compared with the world to come. I am sorry for anyone whose eyes see only one world, and not the coming glory of the children of God; whose vision is full of the tawdry things of earth; who lives for time and not eternity; and who because of that will live without God and without hope, both in this world and the next. Blind to the true

meaning of life, blind to God's program for the future of this world, blind to the fact of Heaven above.

Am I speaking just now to someone who until this hour has lived outside the Christian life, a stranger to God's salvation and therefore bound for an eternity as sorrowful as the Christian's future is glorious? I appeal to everything that is in you of good sense, of wisdom and prudence, of fairness to God and yourself, of gratitude to God for His daily blessings upon you and the death of Christ on the cross for your sins, to turn to Him and be saved. You will never regret it. There never was

a Christian among all the millions who have lived for God who ever regretted being a Christian. Nor will you. If you come to Him and begin to know the unspeakable joy of salvation, your only regret will be that you did not come sooner.

I remind you that you have no time to lose. God's time for this marvellous offer that makes you a Christian is now and He promises to save at no other time. This wonderful privilege I have tried to describe, you can possess this very moment if you will turn your back on sin and receive the Son of God into your heart. Perhaps you never were as near the kingdom of God as right now. Perhaps you will never be as near again.

One of the striking stories of the recent world war was told

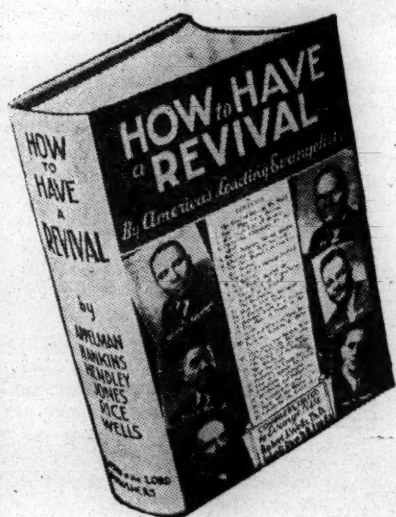
by a young man, a paratrooper, who was led to Christ by Dr. Carl Henry of Chicago. He was one of ten paratroopers in training. They went out in a large training plane to take their first jump. The ten men lined up; he was the third in line to jump. It was no little ordeal. The first man walked to the door and bravely stepped out. He went down and landed safely. The second boy went to the door and hesitated. His nerve failed him. He walked past the door and stood to one side. Then this third boy's turn came. He summoned his courage and stepped out of the open door. He later landed safely. But he had scarcely jumped free of the plane when suddenly it exploded and every man aboard died, including the boy who had

his chance and missed.

My friend unsaved, as you read this message God gives you a chance now to be saved. You can settle your eternal destiny right now as you read this copy of THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Kneel before God, ask Him to forgive your sins for Christ's sake, then by faith receive God's gift of salvation and go out to confess yourself a Christian. You will experience then the joy and peace of being right with God. You will find it a joy greater than any sermon can ever describe, for it is unspeakable, indescribable joy, and it will be yours for eternity. God has set before you an open door to life. Are you going to enter it, or will you turn away and be lost?

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